

REMARKS

Claims 1-48 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 29 is amended to correct a typographical error. Claim 29 is amended to depend from claim 27. No new matter has been added.

Further, in response to the Election of Species Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects Species II, Figs. 8-18, with traverse. At least claims 1-30 and 39-48 are readable on the Species of Figs. 8-18.

The Office has asserted only two species. Applicant submits that two species is not an unreasonable number of Species, and would not seriously burden the Office during its examination.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all pending claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of one group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the other group of claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even if it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

In addition, the Examiner is requested to consider the references submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement that were filed on August 29, 2000 and October 12, 2000.

Withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully submitted.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: May 13, 2004

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